United Nations CEDAW/C/1999/I/1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
17 November 1998

Original: English

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Twentieth session
19 January–5 February 1999

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee.
6. Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
8. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
9. Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twentieth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Opening of the session

The twentieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee

According to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, new members of the Committee shall make the solemn declaration contained in that rule.

98-40279 (E) 311298

Item 3. Election of officers

The Committee shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur for a term of two years, according to rules 13 and 14 of its rules of procedure and article 19 of the Convention. The term of the officers elected by the Committee at its twentieth session, on 19 January 1999, will expire on 31 December 2000. Under rule 43, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, if there is an agreed slate, the candidates may be elected by acclamation, without the holding of a secret ballot.

Item 4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to items the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its nineteenth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twentieth session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups, namely, Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with the past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration could be invited by the working groups to contribute to their deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1999/I/1)

Item 5. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

Item 6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General for consideration by the Committee a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention, and other progress made in that respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and whenever the Committee so requests.

At its nineteenth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the

need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of a balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to invite 10 States parties drawn from a provisional list to submit reports. Four of these States parties (Austria, Chile, Jordan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) were unable to present their reports at the twentieth session. In consultation with the Chairperson, the Secretariat therefore invited the State party Kyrgyzstan to present its initial report, bringing the total number of reporting States to seven.

At its twentieth session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial reports of Algeria (CEDAW/C/DZA/1), Kyrgyzstan (CEDAW/C/KGZ/1) and Liechtenstein (CEDAW/C/LIE/1); the combined second and third periodic reports of Greece (CEDAW/C/GRC/2–3) and the combined second and third periodic reports of Thailand (CEDAW/C/THA/2–3); the combined third and fourth periodic reports of China (CEDAW/C/CHN/3–4 and Add.1 and 2) and the fourth periodic report of Colombia (CEDAW/C/COL/4 and Add.1).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of that State is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twentieth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its twentieth session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1999/I/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. The pre-session working group for the twentieth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 11 to 15 January 1999.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1999/I/2)

Initial report of Algeria (CEDAW/C/DZA/1)

Initial report of Kyrgyzstan (CEDAW/C/KGZ/1)

Initial report of Liechtenstein (CEDAW/C/LIE/1)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Greece (CEDAW/C/GRC/2–3)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Thailand (CEDAW/C/THA/2–3)

Combined third and fourth periodic reports of China (CEDAW/C/CHN/3–4 and Add.1 and 2)

Fourth periodic report of Colombia (CEDAW/C/COL/4 and Add.1)

Item 7. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

At its nineteenth session, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should make the text of the draft general recommendation on article 12 of the Convention available along with proposals for amendment. Members were invited to submit comments to the Secretariat no later than 1 October 1998 to enable further discussion and adoption of a full text at the twentieth session of the Committee, in January 1999 (CEDAW/C/1999/I/WG.II/WP.1)

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. The Committee at its twentieth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on the reports of specialized agencies (CEDAW/C/1999/I/3 and addenda).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1999/I/3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1999/I/3/Add.1)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1999/I/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1999/1/3/Add.3)

Item 8. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights treaty regime. The Secretariat provides the Committee with a report on ways and means at each of its sessions (CEDAW/C/1999/I/4).

Under agenda item 8, the Committee will finalize its report to the Committee on the Status of Women, providing information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action based on its review of the reports of States parties (CEDAW/C/1999/I/5).

The Committee will also have before it the draft rules of procedure prepared by a member of the Committee and discussed at its sixteenth session (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1999/I/4)

Report on the implementation of the Platform for Action based on its review of reports of States parties (CEDAW/C/1999/I/5)

Working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Item 9. Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Committee

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twentieth session

Annex

Proposed organization of work

Tuesday, 19 January 1999

404th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 1.*	Opening of the session
	Item 2.	Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee
	Item 3.	Election of officers
	Item 4.	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	Item 5.	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee
405th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 7.*	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention: introductory statement
	Item 8.	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee: introductory statement
	—	Working Group of the Whole: composition of Working Groups I and II and issues for discussion

Wednesday, 20 January 1999

10 a.m. (Closed meeting)	*Item 7.*	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention
	—	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	—	Working Group of the Whole

Thursday, 21 January 1999

406th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
	—	Algeria, initial report (CEDAW/C/DZA/1)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative
407th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Algeria, initial report (CEDAW/C/DZA/1)
	—	Questions by experts
	Items 7 and 8.	Working Group I

Friday, 22 January 1999

408th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
	—	Kyrgyzstan, initial report (CEDAW/C/KGZ/1)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative
409th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Kyrgyzstan, initial report (CEDAW/C/KGZ/1)
	—	Questions by experts
	Items 7 and 8.	Working Group II

Monday, 25 January 1999

410th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6.	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
	—	Liechtenstein, initial report (CEDAW/C/LIE/1)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative
411th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Liechtenstein, initial report (CEDAW/C/LIE/1)
	—	Questions by experts
	Items 7 and 8.	Working Group I

Tuesday, 26 January 1999

412th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
	—	Replies (Algéria)
3 p.m.	*Items 7 and 8.*	Working Group of the Whole

Wednesday, 27 January 1999

413th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Replies (Kyrgyzstan)
414th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Replies (Liechtenstein)

Thursday, 28 January 1999

415th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Greece, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/GRC/2–3)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts

416th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Greece, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/GRC/2–3)
	Items 7 and 8.	Working Group of the Whole

Friday, 29 January 1999

417th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Thailand, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/THA/2–3)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
418th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Thailand, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/THA/2–3)
	Item 6.	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on initial reports

Monday, 1 February 1999

419th meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	China, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CHN/3–4 and Add.1 and 2)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
420th meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	China, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CHN/3–4 and Add.1 and 2)

Tuesday, 2 February 1999

421st meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	China, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CHN/3–4 and Add.1 and 2)
3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on periodic reports

Wednesday, 3 February 1999

422nd meeting 10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Colombia, fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/COL/4 and Add.1)
	—	Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
423rd meeting 3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
	—	Colombia, fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/COL/4 and Add.1)

Thursday, 4 February 1999

10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on periodic reports
3 p.m.	*Item 6.*	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on periodic reports

Friday, 5 February 1999

10 a.m.	*Item 6.*	**Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on periodic reports**
424th meeting 3 p.m.	*Items 7 and 8.*	**Reports of Working Groups I and II**
	Item 9.	**Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-first session**
	Item 10.	**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twentieth session**